

CLAIMS

1. A method for producing a nonwoven consisting at least partially of hydrophilic elementary fibers, which involves continuously:
- producing a fibrous web (10) by carding or another conventional technique;
  - compressing and moistening said web;
  - subjecting the moistened and compressed web to a bonding treatment by means of water jets acting at least against one of its faces, the web being supported by a rotary drum comprising randomly distributed microperforations, a partial vacuum being applied to the interior of said drum;
  - transferring said bonded web to an assembly (32, 33) making it possible to drain and dry it before it is received, in particular in the form of a wound package,
- characterized in that, after bonding treatment (20) by means of water jets and before drying and reception, the prebonded and moistened web is transferred to an additional assembly (28) for treatment by the action of one or more series of water jets, said assembly comprising a movable suction surface taking the form of a drum covered with a removable sleeve defining an open-work structure (30) consisting of a woven bronze-wire cloth and shaped to have a succession of raised and recessed zones, the raised zones being obtained by embossing, the ratio of emptiness in relation to the surface being between 10 and 50%, and the overall height between the bottom of the recessed parts and the upper part of the raised zones being between 0.5 and 2 mm.
2. A nonwoven web obtained by bonding by means of jets of water under pressure from elementary viscose fibers having a succession of raised and recessed designs.

3. A nonwoven web obtained by bonding by means of jets of water under pressure from elementary fibers comprising a mixture of absorbent artificial fibers and  
5 of synthetic fibers having a succession of raised and recessed designs.

4. A nonwoven web obtained by bonding by means of jets of water under pressure from elementary chemical,  
10 artificial and/or synthetic fibers taken alone or in a mixture and associated with natural fibers such as wood fibers, having a succession of raised and recessed designs.

15 5. The use of nonwoven webs as claimed in one of claims 2 to 4, as wiping material or support for wet wipes.